

within said reading device, said assay device consisting essentially of a porous carrier strip within a hollow casing and wherein the assay result is revealed by specific binding of a labelled reagent within a detection zone of said carrier strip, the presence of the labelled reagent within said detection zone being discernable by said reading device, said reading device including receiving means for receiving said assay device, and said reading initiation means comprising a switch actuating means which is displaceable to initiate reading only upon correct receipt of said assay device within said receiving means, the casing of said assay device including a contact portion to contact and displace said displaceable switch actuating means, so as to activate said reading means only when said assay device is correctly positioned within said receiving means, said contact portion and the displaceable switch actuating means being cooperatively engageable via said lock-and-key interaction such that only upon correct receipt of said assay device is said switch actuating means displaced by said contact portion to initiate reading, said switch actuating means comprising at least one fixed projecting portion and at least one displaceable projecting portion in said receiving means, and said assay device casing comprising a recess in said contact portion to accommodate said fixed projecting portion of said switch actuating means but not the displaceable projecting portion thereof, said contact portion also comprising an interface portion that contacts and displaces said displaceable portion of the switch actuating means only when said fixed projecting portion is accommodated within said recessed contact portion, said contact and displacement resulting in said lock and key interaction to initiate reading said assay device, wherein said reading is enabled only by such contact and displacement action.